2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and previous Review Conference outcomes

Report submitted by the Netherlands*

1. The Kingdom of the Netherlands hereby submits its national report in accordance with the requirements stated in action 20 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

2. The present report describes the activities the Netherlands, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, has undertaken to contribute to the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology since the Review Conference of 2010. In the view of the Netherlands all three pillars are of equal importance.

3. The Netherlands policy towards nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy is reflected in the letter of the then Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Frans Timmermans, to the House of Parliament on 24 October 2013. It has also been reflected in the more recent policy note on international security of the current Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Bert Koenders, of 14 November 2014.

4. The Netherlands is an active member of the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). In the EU, the Netherlands participates in the working parties on Non-Proliferation (CONOP), Global Disarmament and Arms Control (CODUN) and Conventional Arms Exports (COARM) and other forms of EU cooperation related to this field. In NATO, the activities of the Netherlands also include work related to the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

5. Through its membership in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) the Netherlands is actively engaged to further nuclear disarmament and strengthen nuclear non-proliferation. The group of 12 countries (Australia, Canada,

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Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates) is promoting the implementation of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Action Plan in a practical and realistic manner. The NPDI has submitted to the Review Conference a total of 18 working papers for deliberation and organised a number of side events. Working paper NPT/CONF.2015/WP.16 contains recommendations for consideration in an outcome document of the 2015 Review Conference.

6. The Netherlands further participates in the work of the Vienna Group of Ten which has submitted a working paper to the Review Committee on seven topics for consideration, namely the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), compliance and verification, export controls, cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security, and withdrawal from the NPT.

Pillar I. Nuclear disarmament (actions 1 to 22)

7. The Netherlands has, with the NPDI, submitted several working papers on issues related to nuclear disarmament. These include papers on increased transparency on non-strategic nuclear weapons, on reduction in the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines, on nuclear-weapon-free zones and negative security assurances and on de-alerting (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.3, WP.4 and WP.24; and NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.6, respectively). Early in the Review Cycle, the NPDI provided the nuclear-weapons States a draft reporting form on transparency on nuclear arsenals to be used for their reporting under action 21 (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.12). For the 2015 Review Conference, it submitted a paper on transparency for non-nuclear weapon states (NPT/CONF.2014.WP.17).

8. In the context of the NATO Russia Council, the Netherlands hosted a three-day workshop in June 2013 in The Hague on the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines. The workshop, during which each of the four participating nuclear-weapon States made a presentation, aimed at improving mutual understanding and building trust.

9. During the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the Netherlands will host a High Level Panel, focusing on the main challenges of the NPT and in particular on the prospects for disarmament. Panellists will include the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Bert Koenders, former US Senator and current CEO of the Nuclear Threat Initiative Sam Nunn, and Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexei Arbatov.

10. The Netherlands has, as co-chair for the session on transparency and verification and as "friend of the Chair", participated in the Open-Ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

11. The Netherlands has made a continued effort to promote the immediate start of negotiations of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. In 2012, the Netherlands, together with Germany, organised two scientific expert workshops on a treaty banning production of fissile material for nuclear weapons in Geneva. In 2014 and 2015, an expert from the Netherlands actively participated in a Group of Governmental Experts tasked to make recommendations on possible elements of a treaty banning production of fissile material for nuclear

weapons. The Netherlands further provided the Office of Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, on a cost-free basis, an expert for a period of 3 years to support the work of the Group of Governmental Experts. Furthermore, the Netherlands has been actively supporting the activities of the International Panel on Fissile Material. For several years, the Netherlands has hosted presentations by the Panel of its yearly report and their recently published book, as side events of the Conferences of Parties to the NPT and the First Committee of the UN General Assembly.

12. The Netherlands played a leading role in drawing up the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996, a key element of the disarmament architecture. The Netherlands ratified the treaty in 1999 and has since then made numerous efforts to promote the entry into force of the treaty. From the outset, the Netherlands has been an active member of the 'Friends of the CTBT', a group of countries that every second year organises a Ministerial meeting in the margins of the meeting of the UN General Assembly to promote the entry into force of the CTBT. In 2014, its joint Ministerial Statement was associated by a record number of 104 States. Also, the Netherlands participated at ministerial level at Article XIV conferences.

13. In anticipation of the entry into force of the treaty, the Netherlands has helped to set up the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organisation in Vienna and has supported the buildup of the International Monitoring System. Apart from fulfilling its assessed regular budget responsibilities to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation, the Netherlands provides extra-budgetary funds to enhance participation by experts from developing countries in the technical working group meetings. Further extra-budgetary funds to the CTBTO are channelled through consecutive EU Council Decisions. The Netherlands has also financially supported the work of the chairman of working group B.

14. The Netherlands is a strong supporter of the role of civil society, which is important in the effective functioning of the NPT and the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan. The Netherlands supported the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, a non-governmental organisation that monitors the implementation of the Action Plan in the form of an annual report, including its Reaching Critical Will programme. The Netherlands also contributes financially to and cooperates with the Netherlands-based non-governmental organisation PAX for Peace on NPT-related issues.

15. The Netherlands provided financial support to think tanks like Wilton Park and the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, in organising their NPT workshops that bring participants together in the run-up to the Preparatory Committees of this review cycle. In 2012 and 2014, the Netherlands also co-funded and participated in a non-proliferation conference organised by the Centre for Energy and Security Studies in Moscow.

16. The Netherlands has constructively participated in conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear explosions in Oslo (2013), in Nayarit and Vienna (both in 2014). The Netherlands shared the outcomes of research conducted by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, which was aimed at improving the understanding of especially late health effects of radiation exposure. Furthermore, the Netherlands financially supported the non-governmental organisation International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to facilitate the involvement of civil-society organisations at the conference in Vienna.

17. The Netherlands considers the education of the younger generation on disarmament an issue of great importance. To further this goal the Netherlands financially supports the training programme at the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation as well as the summer school programmes on weapons of mass destruction organised by the Netherlands Asser Institute. The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has further funded three PhD research projects on disarmament and non-proliferation, to train the next generation of experts in this field. Some of these PhD researchers have been part of the Netherlands delegation to the respective Preparatory Committees in this review cycle as well as to the 2015 Review Conference.

18. At the start of the 2015 Review Conference, the Netherlands — together with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of Harvard University, and the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey — will organise an academic symposium. The main purpose of this event is to present and discuss worldwide research related to the NPT and to learn from early career scholars about present and future challenges and opportunities for the treaty. The symposium also aims at strengthening future decision-making related to the NPT.

19. The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made regular presentations and briefings to students and detached a student reporter to participate in the youth exchange programme at the time of the Hiroshima NPDI ministerial meeting of April 2014 to reach out to fellow students on what Hiroshima means in the nuclear world, and why nuclear disarmament is so important. The Ministry also financially supported the participation of a representative of the non-governmental organization PAX.

Pillar II. Nuclear non-proliferation (actions 23 to 46 of the Action Plan)

20. The Netherlands has a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in place, complemented by an Additional Protocol and considers the combination of these two the verification standard. In addition to fulfilling its assessed regular budget contributions fully and on time, the Netherlands has supported the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with a voluntary contribution of €100,000 to organise outreach and training courses, and has provided technical support on the Additional Protocol to interested Member States. Such workshops and seminars were organized for Latin American and Caribbean States, African as well as some South Asian States, among them Myanmar. The Netherlands has also reached out to States without an Additional Protocol, through the combined efforts of the NPDI. The NPDI Ministers for Foreign Affairs sent a joint letter on the need for universalization and offered, in cooperation with the IAEA, their countries' practical assistance, best practices and know-how.

21. The Netherlands supports the IAEA in its efforts to develop and implement a less mechanistic safeguards system that better takes into account State-specific factors and that facilitates a more efficient and cost-effective use of the limited resources of the IAEA. To this end, the Netherlands fully endorses, bilaterally as well as a member State of the EU, the further development and application of the State-level concept by the IAEA.

22. The Netherlands is one of the 21 member States of the IAEA that supports further developments in safeguards and verification in practical terms by means of a voluntary member State support programme, which aims to provide IAEA with technical expertise to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA safeguards system. The Netherlands contributes an annual €100,000 to this programme, hence adding up to €500,000 for the period between 2010 and 2015. Furthermore, the Netherlands contributed €250,000 to enhance the capabilities of the safeguards analytical services of the IAEA.

23. The Netherlands has consistently joined the international community in addressing cases of countries that are in non-compliance with their NPT obligations (Iran, Syria, DPRK) in relevant international fora, such as the UN General Assembly, the IAEA General Conference and its Board of Governors, as well as through implementation of the relevant sanctions regimes imposed by the UN Security Council.

24. The Netherlands supports the effort of the E3+3 and Iran to reach a negotiated solution to address the international community's concerns regarding the exclusively peaceful nature of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Netherlands has contributed a total of €475,000 to the IAEA in order for it to verify the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action.

25. Strengthening the system of robust export controls is considered of crucial importance by the Netherlands. According to the EU Dual-Use Export Regulation and the Dutch General Customs Act and Strategic Goods Decree nuclear materials (uranium and plutonium) and goods that can be used to manufacture such materials must be licensed. Goods that can, directly or indirectly, contribute to the development and production of nuclear weapons or their delivery systems are also subject to export controls. The Netherlands is an active member of the Zangger Committee, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which it chaired in 2011-2012. The Netherlands also chaired the NSG's Dedicated Meeting of Technical Experts (DMTE), the group that performed a fundamental review of the control lists and hosted several informal intersessionals.

26. The basic principles of the Netherlands export control policy on dual-use goods, including nuclear goods, are set out in the government response to the European Commission on the dual-use export control system of the EU Green Paper and the report on the written consultations on the subject, adopted on 21 October 2011. Together with its EU partners, the Netherlands is working for agreements on and implementation of export controls. Until recently, the Netherlands also held, the Chair of the sub-working group on non-proliferation of the European Nuclear Energy Forum.

27. Under the umbrella of the Global Partnership, the Netherlands participates in projects with and in Kazakhstan to seek, remove and safely dispose of radiological sources. The current project amounts to $1.65 million.

28. The Netherlands has played an active role in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). Since 2010 it has been chairing the Nuclear Detection Working Group and in March 2015 it has hosted the Nuclear Forensics trial simulation 'Glowing Tulip'; an international table top exercise involving nuclear- and forensic experts, judges and prosecutors to simulate the appropriate response to a terrorist incident with nuclear or radioactive material.

29. The Netherlands is proud to have joined the group of 33 countries, almost 2/3 of the participants of the NSS 2014 that contributed to a so called gift basket on the UNSC Resolution 1540. This group, led by Canada and the Republic of Korea, committed to fully implement the resolution 1540. The main purpose of this giftbasket is to fulfil the obligation to improve the security of nuclear material and to report on this more effectively. Where desired, the signatories will also help other countries fulfil their obligations under the resolution. The signatories also undertake to rapidly submit National Action Plans, as recommended in the resolution.

Pillar III. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy (actions 47 to 64 of the Action Plan)

30. The Netherlands attaches great importance to the prevention of nuclear terrorism and the strengthening of nuclear security. This is a prerequisite for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Netherlands was proud to host the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in The Hague on 24 and 25 March 2014, assembling 58 world leaders. Central points of the NSS process are the commitment to reduce the amount of the most sensitive nuclear materials, to enhance the security of all nuclear material and radioactive sources and to improve international cooperation. All leaders committed to the Communiqué which addressed, building on the work done at the NSS 2012 in Seoul, a number of important new themes. The NSS2014 Communiqué confirmed the central role of the IAEA and gave a more comprehensive overview of the existing international nuclear security architecture. There was also the introduction of confidence-building measures. Although nuclear security is a matter of national concern, leaders recognized that States can take voluntary measures in order to increase the confidence of other States in their nuclear security. Leaders also committed to minimizing stocks of plutonium. Following the commitment on highly enriched uranium which was agreed upon in 2010. Another new element was the increased emphasis on the relationship between States and the nuclear industry.

31. During the NSS 2014, the Netherlands, in close cooperation with the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, launched an initiative to strengthen implementation of the IAEA recommendations contained in Nuclear Security Series 13, 14 and 15. The Joint Statement was cosponsored by 35 countries; it has been circulated as IAEA/INFCIRC869. Further States wishing to subscribe are invited to do so by informing the IAEA Secretariat.

32. The 'Strengthening Nuclear Security Implementation Initiative' moreover commits States to improve the effectiveness of their nuclear security regimes and operators' systems by hosting peer reviews periodically. International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) missions use the IAEA recommendations as reference for their security review. The Netherlands is the first country in the world that hosted such missions in all its facilities and invited a follow-up mission in 2012 to review the implementation of earlier IPPAS recommendations. The Netherlands has also performed a self-assessment and has received an Integrated Regulatory Review mission at the end of 2014. The report with the conclusions of the peer review visit will be published shortly.

33. In a separate meeting during the NSS 2014, Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other representatives of the participating countries discussed a wider range of nuclear subjects, which included disarmament and non-proliferation.

34. In addition to the NSS 2014, three official side-events took place. The Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael took the lead in organising the Nuclear Knowledge Summit, which brought together academia, think tanks and researchers. URENCO led the organisation of the Nuclear Industry Summit, a high-level event for Chief Executive Officers from the nuclear industry worldwide. An international tabletop exercise, @tomic 2014, was held in Maastricht, to promote cooperation between countries and expert communities in enhancing radiological and nuclear security and on preventing radiological and nuclear terrorism.

35. The Netherlands has started the process of conversion from highly enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium targets for the production of medical isotopes. Necessary modifications to the production line at the Molybdenum production Facility in Petten are being applied. The conversion is expected to be finalized by the end of 2017.

36. Confirming its strong support for the work of the IAEA in the field of nuclear security, the Netherlands most recently contributed an amount of €1 million to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund (NSF) for the implementation of its Nuclear Security Plan 2014-2017. The NSF is also strongly supported by significant extra-budgetary contributions from the EU's non-proliferation budget.

37. Additionally, the Netherlands supports the Agency's work on the universalization of the 2015 amendment of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), by engaging in active outreach and by providing fund for the organisation of regional workshops. The Netherlands ratified the amendment in 2011. The Netherlands has granted the IAEA an additional €100,000 to support its work on the universalization of the amendment to the Convention.

38. In 2014, the Netherlands furthermore awarded the World Institute for Nuclear Security a grant of €100,000 for the start-up of the internationally certified training course for professionals in the field of nuclear security.

39. The Netherlands is a strong supporter of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. In addition to its annual voluntary assessed contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund, the Netherlands — through the EU — has provided financial support to the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, convinced it will facilitate further cooperation as enshrined in article IV of the Treaty.

40. The Netherlands is a strong believer in peer reviews, as it holds up a mirror to national review mechanisms and provides assurances to the international community. In the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear incident, the Netherlands has strongly advocated the mandatory nature of safety peer review missions in the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The Netherlands participated in both the second extraordinary Peer Review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in 2012 and the sixth Peer Review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety held in Vienna from 24 March to 4 April 2014. It presented the safety situation in the Netherlands and, in particular, the post-Fukushima measures taken. The results of the meeting are summarized in the Summary Report, published on the IAEA website.

41. At both review meetings the observations were made that provisions should be taken to prevent and mitigate severe accidents with off-site consequences.

Following this observation, an international working group was formed, in which the Netherlands participated, which lead to the formulation of the "Vienna declaration on nuclear safety". The Vienna Declaration was adopted by the Contracting Parties at the Diplomatic Conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety on February 9th, 2015.

42. In 2013, the Technical University of Delft established a pilot for a Master in Nuclear Security in cooperation with universities in Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway, Austria, the EU and the IAEA. The master aimed at training the new generations of experts that will improve the nuclear security worldwide.

Other topics

43. The Netherlands has consistently reaffirmed its support for the process for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The Netherlands recognizes the importance of this process in the NPT Review Cycle. The Netherlands continues to support the ongoing preparations for an effective Conference and thanks the Facilitator and his team once again for their tireless efforts in this regard. The Netherlands is one of the main financial contributors to the annual conference on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, organized by the Arab Institute of Security Studies in Jordan.